(b) The Bombay High Urban Oil pipeline can carry 18MMT per annum of oil. The actual quantity of oil transported was 17.97 and 17.43 million tonnes during the years 1988-89 and 1989-90 respectively.

At present, 16 MMSCMD gas can be transported from Bombay High. The gas transported during 1988-89 and 1989-90 was 16.09 and 14.98 MMSCMD, respectively.

(c) and (d) The initial proposal was received in 1984. However, since then it was modified several times extensively and final proposal was submitted to the Governmental in June,1991.

Rise in Cost of Mangalore Refinery

2396. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:
SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steep cost escalation of the Mangalore Refinery due to delay in approval and devaluation of rupee;

(b) if so, the estimated rise in cost of the Mangalore Refinery; and;

(c) the reasons for delay in approving the said Refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERTROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) t0 (c). Government have approved after due consideration on 11.4.1991 proposal to set up a 3 MTPA Oil refinery at Mangalore at an esteemed cost of Rs. 1160 crores based on June, 1990 prices. Due to normal cost escalation, effect of devaluation etc. the cost of the refinery project as on July, 1991 prices is estimated to be about Rs. 1500 crores.

[*Translation*]

Milk Sheds in Uttar Pradesh

2397. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of milk sheds in Uttar Pradesh under Operation Flood-III Programme;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up additional milk sheds in the State during 1992; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Twentyeight milksheds are at present convered under Operation Flood Programme in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Increase in the Rate of Royalty on Minerals

2398. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision to increase the rates of royalty on minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is proposed to be increased; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) The rats of royalty on minerals other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing were last revised in May, 1987. The next revision was due in may, 1990. The Ministry of Mines constituted a Sudsy Group in April, 1989 to consider the question and make appropriate recommendation to Government. The study Group submitted its recommendations to the Ministry of Mines in April, 1990.

While the recommendations of the Study Group were under consideration, the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts struck down as ultra vires of the Constitution some of the State Acts under which cess, mineral rights tax and other such levies on minerals were imposed. The Supreme Court of India in case of M/s Orissa Cement Ltd. Vs. State of Orissa & other finally disposed of a number of appeals filed by either State Government or other aggrieved parties in its judgement dated 4th April, 1991 holding all such levies to be beyond the competence of the State Legislatures. In view of this judgement of the Supra Court if become necessary to re-examine the recommendations of the Study Group in the cortex of demands from various State Governments for compensating the loss of State revenue on account of non-very of any cess, mineral rights tax, land tax, etc. Various State Governments were earlier levying several categoies of Imports including cess, mineral rights tax etc. There was also large variation in the rates of such levies from State to State. Taking these factories Into consideration and also factors like to PMV of 1990, the conditions in domestic and export markets, nature of end-use of a mineral in industry, the matter has been examined in the Ministry of Mines had detailed proposal for revision of rates of rovalty on various minerals is now under active consideration of the Government.

[English]

LPG Connection in Maharashtra

2399. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applicants on the waiting list for LPG gas connections in Maharashtra, District-wise;

(b) the number of applicants on the waiting list for more than three years; and

(c) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTY OR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). As on 1.10.1991, there were about 13.48 lakh persons on waiting list in Maharashtra. efforts are on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible.

Hydraulic Mining and Desulphurisation Plant at Bargolai, Assam

2400. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a hidraulic mining and desulphurisation plant for production of coking coal at Bargolai, Assam with the Canadian assistance;